SOUTH AFRICAN RADIO LEAGUE

SARL NEWS SUNDAY 15 AUGUST 2004

You are listening to Amateur Radio Station ZS6SRL of the South African Radio League, the National society for Amateur Radio in South Africa, with a news bulletin that is broadcast every Sunday at 08:15 Central Africa Time (CAT) in Afrikaans and at 08:30 CAT in English.

This bulletin is also available on the website of the SARL at www.sarl.org.za, on packet bulletin boards and on echolink from Chris, ZS6FCS.

SILENT KEY

It is with regret that the Boland ARC announces that Malcolm Macgregor, ZS1LK, became a silent key on Monday 9 August. Malcolm was 74 years old. He joined the SARL in 1950 as a member of the then Boland Branch, up to his passing he was a member of the Boland Branch and the Boland ARC. Malcolm leaves his wife Justine and 3 children. We extend our sincere condolences to them, other relatives and friends.

(PAUSE)

In the news today.

INTECNET TONIGHT EXPLORES HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO

SARL HAMFEST IS FOR ALL

SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEURS TRANSMIT DIGITAL VOICE ON HF

Stay tuned for more detail on these and other news items.
Visit the SARL Web site or call the SARL office which is open on weekdays from 09:00 to 13:00 at 011 675 2393 for details on how to join, book sales and all related amateur radio activities.

SARL NEWS invites clubs and individuals to submit news items of interest to amateurs on the web site of the SARL, which is www.sarl.org.za/newsinbox.asp not later than the Thursday preceding the bulletin date. It would be appreciated if you could do it in both Afrikaans and English.

You are listening to ZS6SRL.

The news follows in detail.

INTECNET TO EXPLORE HISTORY OF AMATEUR RADIO IN SA

The next Intecnet is today, Sunday 15 August starting at 20:00 CAT. The programme will explore the history of Amateur Radio in South Africa and invites all radio amateurs who have a story to tell to join in. You can call in on the net or have your story pre-recorded. Send an Email to armi@sarl.org.za with your telephone number and you will be called during the week to record your contribution. Clubs are encouraged to link their repeaters to the network. Send details to armi@sarl.org.za.

SARL HAMFEST IS FOR ALL

The SARL Hamfest to be held at the National Amateur Radio Centre on 21 August is a public event to which all Radio Amateurs, Shortwave listeners and Electronic hobbyist are invited. The Hamfest includes a large range of lectures on many topics of interest, displays, demonstrations and a flea market. By popular request, the flea market and boot sale will start at 12 noon and will be open throughout the day. Book a space with Vee by calling 011 675 2373.

The aim of the day is to focus on amateur radio and bring as many people together to experience the many facets of Amateur Radio.

One of the speakers in the lecture programme is Thomas Abbott, ZR6TXA, who will be speaking about four interesting antennas that you might consider building for your station. Too many antenna designs, especially for Yagis, require some precision in their construction, and give disappointing results if not perfectly made. These are antennas that can be built by amateurs, at home, with modest tools, and without the use of any RF test equipment. The antennas are the W8JK or flattop beam, for HF or VHF and a helix, as a simple means of improving your station gain on 70, 23 or 12 cm. The rhombic, which is sometimes used at HF, is suitable for use at 6 m and even 2 m, giving a quick improvement in gain with a minimum of materials, and a Dual-quad reflector antenna, with good gain for 23 cm and simple construction and feeding. Copies of the antenna designs will be made available at the event.

Clubs are invited to participate in the SARL Hamfest and put up small displays to promote their club. There is no charge for this. Call Vee, ZR6ZEN, at the National Amateur Radio Centre on Tuesday at 011 675 2373 to book your space to promote membership of your club.

SA AMSAT will have a stand at the SARL Hamfest with people to answers all the questions you may have on how to operate on satellites.

August 21 promises to be a great day of fun. The entrance fee is only R20 per person which includes entry into the attendance draw with the first prize an ICOM V8000 two metre mobile rig donated by Multiscource and many other prizes. There are no additional charges. The Sentech restaurant will be open for refreshments and light meals or you may bring your own picnic basket.

The lecture stream for the home constructor features three speakers as well as a open forum discussion. For the full programme visit www.sarl.org.za.

SOUTH AFRICAN AMATEURS TRANSMIT DIGITAL VOICE ON HF

Three South African amateurs made what is believed to be the first successful transmission of a Digital Voice signal over HF amateur bands in the country. The Digital Voice signal was transmitted at 11:16 on Sunday 8 August by Andrew Roos, ZS1AN, and received by Dennis Wells, ZS1AU, with technical assistance from Ettienne Vosloo, ZR1AHW. The transmission took place on the 10 m band, with an occupied bandwidth of approximately 2,3 kHz.

On Tuesday 10th August, Dennis and Andrew successfully exchanged signal reports on 15 metre, completing the first known digital voice QSO in South Africa. The QSO was monitored by Sean White, ZR1BSD.

The software used in this experiment was HamDream version 2.4, which is an open-source implementation of the Digital Radio Mondiale broadcasting standard that has been adapted for amateur use by HB9TLK. It can be downloaded free of charge from the SARL website, www.sarl.org.za. For more information, see HB9TLK's website, www.qsl.net/hb9tlk.

All you need to explore this fascinating new mode is a PC with a full-duplex soundcard, a soundcard/rig interface like those used for PSK-31 and similar digital modes, and a PC headset and microphone that can be purchased at any computer store for about R100. So get QRV on digital voice and join the fun! Andrew and Dennis are keen to make contact with other divisions using this exciting new mode. If you would like to arrange a sked please send email to Andrew, zs1an@qsl.net or Dennis, zs1au@absamail.co.za.

Andrew will be giving a talk on Digital Voice at the SARL "Radio Technology in Action" Hamfest at the National Amateur Radio Centre in Johannesburg on 21st August - see you there!

INTERNATIONAL LIGHTHOUSE WEEKEND

International Lighthouse/Lightship Weekend will be taking place from 00:01 UTC on Saturday 21st August until 23:59 UTC on Sunday 22nd August 2004.

Sarlnews knows of the following lighthouses that will be activated by various clubs: The Adventure Radio Club of Cape Town under the call sign ZS1ARC at Cape Columbine near Paternoster. Also look out for them on 160 m; The Boland Amateur Radio Club from L'Agulhas lighthouse, the most southerly lighthouse on the African continent; The Hibiscus Coast ARC at Port Shepstone and the Port Elizabeth ARS are busy planning their participation; The Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre's station ZS1CT/L from Green Point Lighthouse on all bands from 160 down to 2 metres; The Overberg ARC, ZS1OAR, has operated from Danger Point lighthouse yearly since 1996 and will do so again this year. Their quarterly club meeting will also take place on Saturday 21 Aug at 11:00 for 12:00 at the lighthouse during the event, followed by a bring and braai. Everyone is welcome; The Durban Amateur Radio Club will operate as ZS5D from the Cooper Lighthouse; In Namibia, Hendrik, V51LR, is busy with final arrangements to operate from Swakopmund.

NOMINATIONS FOR THE RADIO AMATEUR OF THE YEAR AWARDS INVITED

The South African Amateur Radio Development Trust and Siemens Telecommunications invite nominations for the 2004 Siemens Radio Amateur of the Year Awards. There are two categories in which to nominate persons who have made a major contribution to Amateur Radio in South Africa. They are the Radio Amateur of the Year Award and the Young Radio Amateur of the Year Award.

The first category is an open one while the second category is limited to nominees under 25 years of age. The winners will each receive a cash prize of R1000 and a certificate. Winners outside the Gauteng area will be provided with a return air ticket and accommodation.

The awards are recognising technical innovation and the promotion and development of Amateur Radio. Activities such as arranging a public event or a DXpedition qualify for nomination. However, the awards are not made for personal achievements such as winning a contest or a DXCC. To get nomination forms send an email to saardt@intekom.co.za . Nominations close on 30 September 2004. Nomination forms are available for down load from the new SA Amateur Radio Development Trust Website at www.amateurradio.org.za.

SASOL TECHNO-X 2004

From 23 to 28 August, SASOL will be hosting their annual Science and Technology faire at Sasolburg. The aim is to expose schoolchildren to science and technology in as many practical ways as possible. This is the fourth year Techno-X is hosted by SASOL. The Sasolburg Amateur Radio Club will once again represent the SARL at this event. They will have a special call sign ZS4SRL for this event.

SA AMATEUR TECHNOLOGY INSTITUTE.

The SAATI annual general meeting is being planned for Saturday 25 at the Alkantrant Association of Clubs' premises at the corner of Lynburn and Meiring Naude Roads. It will take the form of a bring and braai and will start at 12:00 noon. Please advise either Richard, ZR6CK, at 012-333-0612 or Ams, ZS6YV, at 012-664-3629 of your intention to attend. Discussion will centre on the route forward.

CLUB NEWS

The West Rand Amateur Radio Club will host a boot sale on Saturday 4th September at 12:00 SAST. The venue will be the WRARC clubhouse in Kroton Street, Weltevredenpark. Please note that due to popular demand the gates will open at 12:00. For more information, please contact Dave, ZR6AOC, on 083 449 8991. We are looking forward to seeing you and your friends there.

The East Rand Radio Club will be hosting its 67th AGM on 21 August 2004. The AGM will start at 14:00 and will be followed by a Bring & Braai. All are invited to attend. The AGM will be held at the clubhouse at the Olympia Park Swimming Pool behind Pam Brink Stadium in Springs.

At the AGM of the North West Amateur Radio Club which was held on the 7 th of August the following members were elected to the committee: Chairman/Treasurer: Johan, ZS6AWL; Vice Chairman: Rudolf, ZR6JRN; Committee Members: Hein, ZS6HFJ, and Shane, ZR6RP.

At the AGM of the Cape Town Amateur Radio Centre on 26 July the following members were elected to the committee: Chairman: Dave Reece, ZS1DFR; Sec-

retary/Treasurer: Peter Henochsberg, ZR1PH; Bud Voortman, ZS1B: Special events; Maurice Drinkwater, ZS1ACH: QSL bureau and webpage; Shaun Overmeyer, ZR1S0: Ragchew and PRO; Tony McEwen, ZR1T: Minutes secretary and lists.

The Pretoria Amateur Radio Club held its AGM last Thursday. The SARL President Graham Hartlett was the guest of honour and informed the club of the current situation and plans for South African Amateur Radio.

The PARC management team to take it into its 75th jubilee year was elected as follows: Chairman: Hans Kappetijn, ZS6KR; and members: Almero du Pisani, ZR6RY, Richard Peer, ZR6CK, Tjerk Lammers, ZS6P, Sander Wissing, ZR6SW, Johan de Bruyn ,ZR6JHB and Willie Greyling ZR6WGR.

Portfolios will be allotted next Thursday.

Many thanks to the past committees' dedication and our best wishes to the new teams.

PROPAGATION REPORT

It appears as though cycle may 23 may still have quite a few surprises in store. During the past week the sunspot number, as a few weeks ago, again increased exceptionally. The upward curve was exceptionally steep and may follow this trend for a few more days. On Friday the sunspot number was 105,9 as against 31,4 of the previous week.

Sun activities were modest with good DX conditions at times. Even the 15 m band was very good at times. Sun activities were mainly concentrated in its northern part. It seems that no mentionable corona openings may be expected during the coming week, however if it does happen, very good propagation condions may be experienced.

Thus, watch out, if these opportunities do present themselves, make use of it. The 20 m as well as the 15 m bands may offer good opportunities and the 10 m band may also do so. The summer season is now approaching and the bands tend to stay open later.

DIARY OF EVENTS AND REMINDERS

16 August: Closing date for logs for the SARL HF Phone contest 21 August: Radio Technology in Action and Hamfest at the NARC; 21/22 August: International Lighthouse Weekend 23/28 August: Sasol Techno-X takes place and ZS4SRL on the air; 27/29 August: ZS1ARC on the air from the Latsky Radio Museum; 29 August: SARL HF CW Contest 4 September: West Rand Amateur Club to hold a boot sale; 2 October: Flea Market at the East Rand Radio Club; Pay SARL membership, fees; Contribute to the fund initiated by the SA Amateur Radio Development Trust for the SARL's IARU membership; Send articles for Radio ZS to radiozs@sarl.org.za; Visually impaired hams contact Dave, ZS1LDH, on 021-761-8386 or email Dave, care of the Cape Town Amateur Ra-

dio Centre on zs1ct@qsl.net regarding receiving Radio ZS on tape. Email SARL history to zs6p@iafrica.com.

The SARL invites you to listen to Amateur Radio Mirror International on 17 815, 9 750, and 7 082 kHz and 145,625 MHz in East London, 145,650 in Durban 145,750 MHz in Pretoria and 438,800 in the Sandton area. A repeat broadcast can be heard on Mondays at 21:00 CAT on 3 215 kHz.

Telkom and Sentech sponsor ARMI.

This then brings us to the end of today's bulletin, which was compiled by Dennis, ZS4BS, and read by …….from…… as a service to radio amateurs, short wave listeners and electronic enthusiasts.

You have been listening to ZS6SRL and thank you for having joined us. Also many thanks to those persons who supply news for our bulletins and the amateurs who relay the bulletins so regularly.

Goodbye everyone.

/EX